

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05172 190951Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----076591 191000Z /15
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2664
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5172

EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

LONDON FOR ASST SECRETARY SAUNDERS AND AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

MOSCOW FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS, US, OVIP(BEGIN, MENAHEM)
SUBJ: BEGIN VISIT TO UNITED STATES

1. BEGIN WILL BE IN THE UNITED STATES THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY SPEAKING TO JEWISH AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN VARIOUS CITIES AS PART OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THE FACT THAT WE HAVE MADE NO MOVE AS YET TO SUGGEST SOME KIND OF CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS VISIT IS BECOMING MORE THAN PAINFULLY APPARENT TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HERE, TO SAY NOTHING OF BEGIN HIMSELF. AS WE KNOW WELL BY THIS TIME, HIS PRIDE AND EMOTIONS ARE CENTRALLY INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT STATE OF EROSION IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS. HE RESPONDS WITH ABNORMAL PLEASURE AND GRATITUDE TO PERSONAL ATTENTION FROM THE PRESIDENT; CONVERSELY, ANYTHING HE WOULD INTERPRET AS A DELIBERATE SLIGHT WILL HAVE EXAGGERATED NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON HIS ATTITUDES TOWARD

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U.S.-ISRAELI COOPERATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

2. FOR THIS REASON, I STRONGLY URGE THAT WE TAKE THE INITIATIVE NOW TO SET UP SOME KIND OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND TO GIVE BEGIN THAT WORD. WHEN I WAS LAST IN WASHINGTON I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE SOME KIND OF CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE THIRTIETH ANNI-

VERSARY IN WASHINGTON THAT PARTICULAR WEEK AND THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS TO BE INVOLVED IN SOME WAY. IF SO, THIS WOULD BE THE LOGICAL TIME TO INVITE HIM TO BREAK HIS TRIP TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR PERHAPS ONE DAY OR EVEN PART OF A DAY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY AND INDEED PERHAPS NOT EVEN DESIRABLE TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON THIS TRIP. IF DAYAN AND THE SECRETARY HAVE MET BEFORE THAT POINT AND HAVE COME TO SOME POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS, IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO EXPAND THE NATURE OF A BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON. BUT I BELIEVE IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT WE WILL STILL BE IN AN IMPASSE BY EARLY MAY. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, A PRIVATE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND PERHAPS A MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN ADDITION IS ALL THAT WOULD BE USEFUL OR NECESSARY. BUT TO OMIT SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE THE PROFOUNDEST NEGATIVE IMPACT HERE. IT WOULD BE SEEN NOT SO MUCH AS JUSTIFIABLE IMPATIENCE WITH BEGIN BUT RATHER AS A GROSS INSULT TO THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER, AND WOULD BE CERTAIN TO PRODUCE AN OUTPOURING OF SYMPATHY AND RALLYING AROUND HIM FROM ALL POINTS OF THE POLITICAL COMPASS.

3. TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION WILL UNFORTUNATELY PRODUCE SOME OF THE SAME EFFECT. WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF THE GESTURE AND TO AVOID HAVING IT IN EFFECT TURNED TO ASHES BY THE SEEMINGLY GRUDGING NATURE OF THE ACT. I HOPE THAT SOME-
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THING CAN BE WORKED OUT QUICKLY AND A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE GIVEN ME TO PRESENT TO BEGIN THIS WEEK, INVITING HIM TO WASHINGTON FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AT A TIME DURING HIS TRIP TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND THE WHITE HOUSE.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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